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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CITY ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR FIRST POET LAUREATE

*Santa Fe, New Mexico*— The City of Santa Fe Arts Commission is currently accepting applications for the first City of Santa Fe Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate program has been established to promote a meaningful poetic presence as part of the diverse cultural fabric of our city. This is an honorary position given to a person who has established a reputation in the world of poetry, demonstrated commitment and passion for poetry, and embraces the opportunity to engage in civic discourse. The term of service is two years for which the poet will be paid an honorarium of up to \$5,000. The deadline for applications is Friday, October 28, 2005.

To be eligible, poets must be over 21 years of age and a resident of Santa Fe county for at least two years. Individuals who have been employed in Santa Fe county for two years are also eligible, provided they are involved in and committed to the Santa Fe community. As Poet Laureate, the poet will make four public appearances a year at city-sponsored events to read his or her work. Additionally, the Poet Laureate will undertake an educational outreach initiative for the community of his or her own design.

A committee will select the Poet Laureate based on four criteria: quality of poetry, language and oral facility; suitability of the work for civic celebration; recognition evidenced through publications, fellowships, etc; and engagement in past poetry projects. Three finalists will be selected from the pool of applicants for in-person interviews. Final selection of the Poet Laureate will take place in late January 2006.

The Poet Laureate program is designed to enhance the presence of the literary arts in Santa Fe and create a focal point for the expression of Santa Fe's culture through the literary arts. Objectives for the program also include raising awareness of the power of poetry and the spoken word, providing a forum for the cross pollination of art forms, and fostering the personal and professional growth of the Poet Laureate. Over time, the program will generate a body of work that commemorates the life of the city, the spirit of its people, and its special qualities.

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To be considered, poets must submit a resume, three to five poems, an audio or visual presentation, a nomination letter, and a letter of interest by no later than October 28, 2005. For additional information or to request an informational brochure, please contact the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission at 505-955-6707 or visit our website at [www.santafenm.gov](http://www.santafenm.gov).

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The City of Santa Fe Arts Commission is an agency within the municipal government of the city of Santa Fe. The Arts Commission provides leadership for the city in supporting arts and cultural affairs. In this role, the Arts Commission recommends programs and policies that promote artistic excellence in the community. Through its work, the Arts Commission nurtures and supports Santa Fe's unique artistic and cultural heritage.